



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IFW

Applicant: Tajima et al. Confirmation No.: 6403  
Serial No.: 10/758333 Group Art Unit: 3611  
Filed: January 14, 2004 Docket: 08373.0323US01  
Title: VEHICLE STEERING APPARATUS

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 2, 2004.

By: *Antonette Peters*

Name: Antonette Peters

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**23552**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- ☒ Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement, Form 1449, 1 Reference(s), European Search Report
- ☒ Return postcard

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers or any future reply, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903, Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903  
612.332.5300

By: *Curtis B. Hamre*

Name: Curtis B. Hamre

Reg. No.: 29,165

CBH/acp



SN 10/758333

PATENT

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By: Antonette Peters  
Name: Antonette Peters

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c))

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner. At least some of the references were recently cited in an International Search Report mailed November 3, 2004.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted after the mailing date of a first Office Action on-the-merits or a first Office Action after filing a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 or a CPA under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d), but before the mailing date of: i) a final action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113; ii) a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311; or iii) an action that otherwise closes prosecution on the application. No fee is due as this statement is submitted as certified below under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1) or (2) by the undersigned.

Certification Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1)

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) or § 1.97(d), the undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application within three months of filing this statement.

**Certification Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d)**

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d), the undersigned hereby certifies that each item listed on the enclosed Form 1449 was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty (30) days prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. Accordingly, no patent term adjustment is due for the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2), a copy of each document or other information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 is provided.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

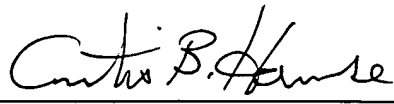


Dated: December 2, 2004

CBH/acp

Respectfully submitted,

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P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300

By   
Curtis B. Hamre  
Reg. No. 29,165

<b>FORM 1449*</b> <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b>  <b>IN AN APPLICATION</b>  (Use several sheets if necessary)	Docket Number: 08373.0323US01	Application Number: 10/758333
	Applicant: Tajima et al.	
	Filing Date: January 14, 2004	Group Art Unit: 3611

[illegible]

**23552**  
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant.	